



Dear All,

We are sure that many of you are following the tragic hours Serbia is living right now. The floods have been defined the "worst natural disaster in the country's history" by the Serbian Prime Minister.

Mirko Stojkovic, from Agenfor Western Balkans, has been working non stop with a group of volunteers in order to help improving the situation and managing the inevitable damages.

As you can see from the official communication published by the Ministry of Justice website, support to the most vulnerable parts of society has been coming from everywhere and also from prisons! (for more information:

<http://www.mpravde.gov.rs/vest/5590/zatvori-nastavljaju-da-ucestvuj-u-odbrani-gradova-od-poplava.php>).

A total of 1000 employees and detainees from Correctional Institutions and from the Department for the application of Criminal Sanctions have been volunteered to help in actions to defend cities from the natural disaster Serbia has been fighting against in the last days, while more detainees from other correction institutions are ready to intervene in case of necessity

“Detainees from Sabac Correctional Institution were evacuated during night to the Sremska Mitrovica Correctional Institution. The situation in Sabac Correctional Institution is under control, and water from the yard is withdrawn.

Director of the Dept. For the Application of Criminal Sanctions Mr. Милан Стевовић, M.D., and over 1000 employees and detainees from these institutions have volunteered to help in actions to defend cities from floods.

Wardens, employees and detainees from the Correctional Institution in Nis, the Pozarevac – Zabela Correctional Institution, Belgrade Correctional Institution, County Jail in Novi Sad, County Jail in Zrenjanin, Belgrade Correctional Institution in Padinska Skela, Juvenile correctional Institution in Krusevac, and Special detentional hospitals **have participated in filling sacks with sand in Sabac.**

In Sremska Mitrovica, 200 employees in the Correctional Institution are still engaged in activities concerning enforcing the Sava river banks, while 200 detainees, who serve their sentences in an open system, are on call in case the situation deteriorates.

Bakers in institutions in Padinska Skela and in Sremska Mitrovica are ready to bake about 2500 breal loaves, at any moment, as aid to endangered people. Situation in all correctional institutions is under control.”



Agenfor Western Balkans is proud of this grassroots cooperation between prison institutions, prisoners and local communities that we contributed to develop in the last two years.

This is the first tangible sign that prisons are part of a “social capital” that need to be emphasized by subsidiary policies behind state of emergency.

A policy of alternative measures as part of a broader social integration will help addressing the rehabilitation needs of the prisoners and contribute also to the social welfare of local communities. Within the disaster of the flood that hit Serbia this cooperation between prisoners and citizens in need remains a sign of hope for future subsidiary policies.

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